

The Sydney Morning Herald.

NO. 8345—VOL. LI.

MARRIAGES.

On the 21st February, at Nambucca, Nance River, by the Rev. F. Price, of Wee Waa. G. A. Murray, Esq., Rockhampton, to Mary Elizabeth, second daughter of Charles Capp, Esq., of Mile. On the 25th February, by special license, at St. Michael's Church, by the Rev. Mr. Hulton S. King, Joseph, youngest son of Mr. James Richard Whiting, Esq., to Maria, eldest daughter of Mr. James Whiting, Esq.

On the 1st instant, at Balmain, by the Rev. Mr. Gordon, Charles, youngest son of Mr. Peter Peterson, of Rockhampton, to Mary Ann, eldest daughter of Mr. James Dunn, of Kent-street, Sydney.

SHIP ADVERTISEMENTS.

STEAM TO AUCKLAND direct.—The PANAMA, NEW ZEALAND, AND AUSTRALIAN ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP.

LINE ALFRED.

H. S. MACHIN, commander, will be dispatched with the English Mail (if arrived) for AUCKLAND direct, March 15th.

For freight and passage apply at the company's office, Grafton Wharf.

JOHN VINE HALL, General Manager.

STEAM TO NEW ZEALAND GOLD-ELDERS. REDUCED RATES OF PASSAGE.

THE PANAMA, NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIAN ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP.

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J. GARDYNE, commander, will be dispatched with the English Mail (if arrived) for NELSON, PICTON, WELLINGTON, NAPIER, PORT COOPER, OTAGO, and TARANAKI, March 15th.

Passengers for MANAKAU, and cargo and passengers for TARANAKI, transhipped at NELSON.

PICTON, 24th.

Passenger and cargo for NAPIER, transhipped at WELLINGTON.

Arriving at NAPIER, 26th.

For freight and passage apply at the company's office, Grafton Wharf.

JOHN VINE HALL, General Manager.

REDUCTION OF FREIGHT ON HORSES TO BRISBANE.

THE S. N. C. now issue RETURN TICKETS TO BRISBANE, available for TWO MONTHS, by ANY of their STEAMERS, for TWO POUNDS PER HEAD.

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The A. S. N. Co.'s steamer, CITY OF BRISBANE, will sail for the above port, TO-MORROW AFTERNOON, SATURDAY, at 5.

Saloon £2 5 0

Return ticket (available for two months) 4 0 0

Steerage 0 12 0

SAMUEL CLARK, Manager.

A. S. N. Co.'s Wharf, Sussex-street.

THE AUSTRALIAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY'S STEAMERS.

TO MELBOURNE.—CITY OF MELBOURNE, TO-MORROW AFTERNOON, SATURDAY, at 4.

TO HUNTER RIVER.—COONANBARA, TO-MORROW NIGHT, SATURDAY, at 11; and COLLAROY, SUNDAY NIGHT, 12.

TO MANNING RIVER.—SAMSON, 24 hours after arrival.

TO BRISBANE.—CITY OF BRISBANE, TO-MORROW AFTERNOON, SATURDAY, at 5.

To MELBOURNE direct.—EAGLE, 48 hours after arrival.

To ROCKHAMPTON.—BALCUTHA, TO-MORROW AFTERNOON, SATURDAY, at 6.

To PIONEER RIVER.—BALCUTHA will take cargo to be transhipped at Rockhampton for DIAMANTINA.

TO PORT DENISON, via GLADSTONE.—JAMES PATERSON, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, at 5.

From BRISBANE to ROCKHAMPTON, via MARYBOROUGH and GLADSTONE.—CLARENCE, 7th.

From BRISBANE to ROCKHAMPTON direct.—WILLIAMS, 14th instant.

From ROCKHAMPTON to PIONEER RIVER and PORT DENISON.—DIAMANTINA, about 70 instant.

Cargo is now being received for transmission to any of the above ports.

SAMUEL CLARK, Manager.

A. S. N. Co.'s Wharf, Sussex-street.

H. N. S. N. CO.—STEAM TO THE HUNTER, TO-MORROW (FRIDAY) NIGHT, at 11, the CITY OF NEWCASTLE.

On MONDAY MORNING, at 7, the MORPETH.

F. J. THOMAS, Manager.

Offices—foot of Market-street.

HUNDRED RIVER NEW STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.—Steamers and from the Hunter during the month of March, 1865.

FROM SYDNEY.

On MONDAY, at 7 a.m., the MORPETH.

On TUESDAY, at 11 p.m., the CITY OF NEWCASTLE.

On THURSDAY, at 7 a.m., the CITY OF NEWCASTLE.

On FRIDAY, at 2 p.m., the MORPETH.

The steamer ANNA MARIA, to PATERSON TOWN-SHIP every WEDNESDAY MORNING, at 6.

F. J. THOMAS, Manager.

Offices, foot of Market-street.

QUEENSLAND STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

LADY YOUNG.

W. A. CURRIE, commander, will be dispatched on TUESDAY, 7th instant, at 5 p.m., for

BRISBANE, and IPSWICH,

MARYBOROUGH, and ROCKHAMPTON.

Cargo is now being received at the Company's Stores.

W. WESTGARTH, Manager.

Q. S. N. Co.'s Wharf, Sussex-street, March 2.

C. AND R. H. S. N. CO.—A Steamer for MACLEAN RIVER, via NEWCASTLE, TO-NIGHT, at 10.

WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Secretary.

STEAM TO TWO FOLD BAY.—The swift and powerful steamship BARWON will sail from Commercial Wharf, for the above port, on SATURDAY, 4th instant.

REDUCED FARES.

The swift and powerful steamship BARWON, after undergoing her first annual overhaul and thorough repair (inspection invited), will sail from the Commercial Wharf, on SATURDAY, March 4th, at 2 p.m.

Ditto, return £2 15 0

Steerage 1 15 0

W. W. MARSH, agent.

COMMERCIAL WHARF.

STEAM TO MELBOURNE direct.—The fast and powerful steamship YOUNG THOMAS, THOMAS HESSELLIN, commander, will be dispatched with her

usual punctuality.

Cargo now being received at the Commercial Wharf.

For freight or passage apply to LAIDLEY, IRELAND, and CO.

N. B.—Goods landed on Melbourne Wharf without transhipment.

STEAM TO HOBART TOWN, calling at EDEN.—THE CARNATION, W. G. CLINCH, commander.

For freight or passage apply to JOHN CLINCH, 10, Pitt-street.

For every additional month, £1 10s.

For six months, £1 10s.

For each additional month, £1 10s.

Freight or passage apply to JOHN FRAZER, and CO.

FOR THE TWEED RIVER.—THE LIBERTY, for freight or passage apply on board, Baltic Wharf.

MANNING RIVER.—LIGHTNING, M. SUGDEN master, calls SATURDAY, at CLARKE and RAYNER, Victoria Wharf.

MANNING RIVER.—ESTHER, freight passage, apply on board, Victoria Wharf.

FOR PORT MACQUARIE.—THE CARNATION, first wharf, O'DOWD and CO., Commercial Wharf.

FOR BRISBANE.—THE LION will be quickly dispatched, LAIDLEY, IRELAND, and CO.

FOR PORT DENISON.—WAVE OF LIFE, daily express, For freight or passage apply to JOHN FRAZER, and CO., or MOLISON and BLACK.

SHIP ADVERTISEMENTS.

ILLAWARRA S. N. CO.'S STEAMERS TO WOLLONGONG.—NIGHT, TO NIGHT, at 11.

KIAMA.—EVENING, TO-NIGHT, at 11.

SHOALHAVEN.—Hunter, on MONDAY, at noon.

CLYDE RIVER.—Hunter, on MONDAY, at noon.

MURUVA.—Steamer, on MONDAY, at noon.

MURUVA.—Kings, on WEDNESDAY, at 10 a.m.

TO BOSK RIVER.—STEAMER, the instant.

FOR BOWEN.—PORT DENISON.—The clipper school-boat, POST BOY, GASCOIGNE, master, now loading at Campbell's Wharf, will sail on SATURDAY.

FOR VESSEL FOR ROCKHAMPTON.—The favorite regular trader ELLESMER, R. E. ROBINSON, commander, having nearly the whole of her cargo engaged, will have quick dispatch.

For freight or passage apply to LAIDLEY, IRELAND, and CO., Lloyd's Chambers.

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(From the *Index.*)

On the 5th of March next there will be three Governments on the continent of America, none of which existed three years ago. On that day the Confederate States will be rather more than three years old; the Empire of Mexico will be about one year old; and the new Federation, of which Mr. Abraham Lincoln has been elected the first President, will be just one day old. We propose to comment on this fact, and to point out the obligation it imposes on the Governments of Europe.

The three new Governments, besides juvenility, have another feature in common. They have all been created or ratified by a popular vote, and so emphatically teach us the oft-repeated lesson, that universal suffrage does not necessarily imply a republican form of government; that it does not guarantee a free government; that it is not the letter of a Constitution, but the spirit of the people, which gives birth to and sustains liberty. Besides analogies, there are differences between these Governments which deserve attention. In Mexico the form of government has been changed. In the Federal States the old name and the old form have been retained, but the character of the government has been completely revolutionised. The Confederate States have taken a new name, but retained the old form and the old principles. The Empire of Mexico was founded in the hope of replacing anarchy and misery by order and prosperity. The object of the Northern Federation is to conquer the South; the mission of the Confederates is to defend their hereditary rights and freedom. Or, to quote the words of Earl Russell, "The North is fighting for empire, and the South for independence!" The Empire of Mexico was established by aid of that great military Power which assisted the British colonies of North America in compelling the mother country to recognise them as thirteen sovereign States. The Northern Federation has been ratified by the votes of the majority of the Northern people. The Confederacy represents the unanimous will of the Southern people. Mexico, though not involved in war, has a heavy debt, the legacy of a long period of political strife and degeneracy. The North, though the markets of the world have been open to her to exchange her products of gold, is already in the throes of national bankruptcy—her debt is enormous, and her Governmental issues are not worth 50 per cent. of their nominal value. The debt of the South is not half of that of the North, whilst her currency is vastly more depreciated—but then she has been shut out from commerce, and she has a stock of produce on hand worth more than the amount of her debt twice told. The stability of neither Mexico nor the Northern Federation has been tested by invasion, though we doubt not both could offer a successful resistance. The Confederacy has been tested by four years of invasion on a gigantic scale, and no one who has eyes to see and ears to hear will deny that no young nationality was ever before called upon to endure such a fiery ordeal, or that any nation could have made a more heroic and, thank God! a more successful defence. It was but yesterday the Union, itself not older than some living men, was dissolved. Suppose four years ago, when the election of a sectional president warned the sovereign States of the South that they must leave the Union or become the creatures of a Northern faction, that some part of what has since occurred had been revealed—suppose it had been told the Confederates that their right of secession would be denied by Europe—that their ports would be blockaded, and that they would be cut off from all the supplies they so much needed—that the North, blinded by covetousness and malignity, would conscript upwards of 2,000,000 men for the purpose of subjugating the South—that the North would recruit her armies from Ireland and Germany—that the North would spend £400,000,000 sterling for the prosecution of the war—what, we ask, would have been the effect of such a revelation? It would have prevented secession, but the most sanguine friend of the South, the most fervent believer in the strength of patriotic devotion and in the might of right, could not have supposed, could hardly have dared to pray, that the North would make such small progress as she has done. About ultimate triumph there could have been no doubt, but it would have seemed inevitable that nearly all the great cities of the South must have fallen and have been in the military possession of the invader. How different is the actual result! Except New Orleans none of the greater towns have been captured. In the Confederate Capital, but a day's journey from Washington, the second session of the Second Congress of the Confederate States is now assembled. We will not ask if Mexico could so triumphantly have resisted such an invasion: but we say, and without fear of contradiction, that had the North been thrown upon her own resources as the South has been, with the same odds against her and the like armies invading her—we say that it is altogether without the limits of probability that her resistance would have been so successful! No wonder that the great man at the head of the Confederate Government, and the great captains who lead the Confederate armies, should be calm in the hour of adversity and humble in the hour of victory, feeling that God has been their shield, and that the Lord of Hosts has con-founded their enemies.

We have said that on the 5th of March next the Federation of which Mr. Lincoln has been elected the first President will be but one day old, and a little reflection will show that this assertion is true, and not a mere figure of speech.

Why is the Confederacy called a new Government? Some of the sovereign States which compose it are as old as the oldest States in the Northern Federation, and the newest States in the South are not so new as some of the States in the North. The State Governments of the South have not undergone so many changes since 1860 as the State Governments of the North. The Confederate Congress contains fewer new legislators than the Federal Congress. So far as constitutionalism is concerned, while there have been many important and radical changes in the North, there have been but few, indeed no fundamental changes in the South. But we shall be told that the South seceded from the North. That is true. So it is also that the North has seceded from the South. What does Southern secession mean? That the South determined upon having a central Government in the election of which the North should have no part. Will not the North, on and after the 4th of March next, have a government in the election of which the South has taken no part? Did the Federal Congress enact that the Southern States should not be allowed to vote in the Presidential election of 1864? Surely this is an act of secession of the North from the South as formal and solemn as the secession of the South from the North. We admit that the North declares

that it intends to attempt to conquer the South. What of that? Suppose the South declared that it intended to attempt the conquest of the North, would that justify us in refusing to acknowledge the new northern Federation? Should we therefore have to recall our Minister from Washington on the 4th of next March?

We presume the theory on which European Governments have hitherto refused to recognise the Confederate States is that Mr. Lincoln was elected by a majority of the States both North and South, but such an argument will have no application for the 4th March next. The Southern States are not the hereditary dominions of Mr. Lincoln. The Southern States do not belong to Mr. Lincoln by right of conquest, and he is not their elected ruler. There is no subterfuge, there is no sophistry, by which European Governments can pretend that the Government which will be inaugurated in Washington the 4th of March next is either *de jure* or *de facto* the Government of the South. Mr. Lincoln may say that he intends to restore the Union by force of arms—that he is going to reconcile the South by slaying her sons, by maltreating her daughters, and by burning her homes. But this has nothing to do with the question. We have to deal with the present, not the future. If Mr. Lincoln should succeed—if the men of the South should be exterminated, and the lands of the South come into Northern possession—then, indeed, we should have to recognise in Mr. Lincoln the sovereign of the South. But, meantime, though Mr. Lincoln does not rule over the South, there is a Southern Government. The question, then, for Europe to decide is this—whether, on the 4th of March next, she will refuse to recognise the Confederate Government, and so declare that there is no Government in the South—that is, that the South is in the position of uninhabited land, and that she is a lawful prize for those who first get possession.

MR. RUSKIN ON THE EDUCATION OF WOMEN.

(From the *London Evening Star*, December 16.)

On Wednesday evening Mr. Ruskin delivered a lecture in the large room of the Manchester Town Hall, to a fashionable audience, in aid of a fund for fitting up schoolrooms in a densely-populated part of St. Andrew's parish, Ancoats. Mr. Ruskin said this lecture was a sequel to one he delivered a week ago. In the former one he endeavoured to shew that there was only one pure kind of kingship—that which consisted in a stronger moral state, and in a truer thoughtful state than that of others, enabling us therefore to guide or serve others. All literature, and all education were only useful so far as they led to the apprehension and continuance of that kingly power, first over ourselves, and through ourselves over all around us. He was going to ask that evening what portion of the royal authority arising out of education might rightly be possessed by women, how far they were called to a true queenly power over all within their spheres. This could not be determined until it was agreed what the ordinary and common power of women should be. Last week he said the best use of education was to enable us to consult wise men on all points of difficulty. Applying that rule now, he would inquire what the greatest, the wisest, and the purest heads among the men of all time held as to the true dignity and position of women. Taking Shakspere first, he had not one entirely heroic figure in all his plays, except the slightly sketched one of Henry the Fifth, exaggerated for the purposes of the stage, and the still slighter Valentine, in the "Two Gentlemen of Verona." On the other hand, there was scarcely a play that had not in it a perfect woman. Isabella, Queen Katherine, Perdita, Sylvia, Viola, Hermoine, Imogen, Helena, and last and perhaps loveliest, Virgilia, were all faultless, all conceived in the highest type of humanity. The catastrophe of every play was brought about always by the folly or fault of a man: the redemption, if there were any, by the wisdom and virtue of a woman. Observe also that among all the principal figures in Shakspere's plays there was only one weak woman, Ophelia, and it was because she failed Hamlet at the critical moment that all the catastrophe followed. There were wicked women among the principal figures, but they were felt to be exceptions, and were fatal in their influences according to the power of good they had abandoned. As the writer who had given the broadest and truest view of the conditions of ordinary thought in modern society, he would next ask his hearers to receive the witness of Sir Walter Scott. In the whole range of his works only three men approached the heroic type, Claverhouse, Rob Roy, and Dandy Diamond. Of any deep consistent character, of any purpose wisely conceived, there was no trace in any of Scott's conceptions of men—whereas in his conception of women—Helen Douglas, Flora McIvor, Catherine Seaton, Diana Vernon, even in Meg Merrilies, and last and loveliest in Jeanie Deans, we had an infallible and inevitable sense of dignity and justice, and an entire self-sacrifice. Going back to the testimony of the great Italians and Greeks, the plan of Dante's great poem, was that it was a love poem of thanks to his dead lady for her watch over his soul. Among the Greeks we found the simple mother's and wife's heart of Andromache; the divine, yet always rejected wisdom of Cassandra, the playful kindness and simple princess life of the happy Nausicaa—the lofty calm of Penelope, with its watch upon the sea; the ever-patient piety of sister and daughter in Antigone; the going to sacrifice of Iphigenia, lamb-like and silent; and finally, the expectation of the resurrection rendered clear to the soul of the Greek by the return of Alcestis, who to save her husband had deliberately gone down to the shades of death. He could multiply such instances from Chaucer, and Spenser, and others, but he would content himself with asking his hearers to give its legitimate value to this testimony of the great poets and great men of the world. Lastly, he would take the evidence of facts given by the human heart itself. In all Christian ages notable for purity and progress there had been absolute obedience of the lover to his mistress. What we too often doubted was the fitness of the continuance of that relation throughout the whole of human life. It was thought that the reverence and duty were to be withdrawn when the affection had become wholly and limitlessly our own. Was not that most ignoble? The idea of the guiding function of the woman was reconcilable with that of the obedience, for her guidance was that of the compass, not that of the helm. Here was the guiding not the determining function. We were most foolish in discussing which sex had the supremacy. The man was eminently the doer, the discoverer, the defender; the woman's intellect was for order, arrangement, and decision. Home was the place of peace and shelter, not only from injury but also from terror. Wherever a true wife came such a home was always around her. Accepting this, then, as the true conception of the office and dignity of woman, the next question was

what kind of education would fit her for it. Her physical training and exercise must be continually directed to perfect her health and beauty. Physical freedom was vain to produce beauty without a corresponding freedom of heart. Wordsworth truly said of a maiden—

" Vital feelings of delight."

Shall rear her form to stately height."

They must be of delight to be vital. We must not think to make a girl lovely without making her happy. The perfect beauty of a woman's countenance could only come out of that majestic peace which arose from a well remembered past of happy times, full of sweet remembrance, and from the joining of those with that more majestic childhood which was yet full of change and promise, and bright with presage of things to come and to be bestowed. Then, as the strength would permit, we had to fashion the girl's mind with all manner of thoughts which tended to confirm its natural instinct of justice, and to unfold its natural instinct of love. All such knowledge should be given her as would enable her to aid the work of man; and it should be given, not as knowledge, but only to enable her to feel and judge. It was of no moment whether she knew many languages or sciences, but of the greatest importance that she should be trained to habits of accurate thought. Chiefly she should be taught to extend the limits of her sympathy with respect to the sufferings which were continually befalling those around her. A girl's education should be, in its course and material of study, the same as a boy's, but quite differently directed. A woman in any rank of life ought to know what her husband was likely to know, but to know it in a different way; he for a complete command of it—she for a daily and helpful use of it. Man should know the subjects thoroughly; woman should know them only so far as to enable her to sympathise with and to enhance all the pleasure of them. She should, however, know them accurately, and not have a mere smattering of them, or she would but tease, and not help, her husband. Of the two, a girl should be led earlier than a boy into serious subjects, as her mind developed earlier, as they would make her less frivolous, and would be calculated to add the qualities of purity and seriousness to the buoyancy of her thought and wit, and to occupy her mind with the loftiest and purest elements of thought. The books for her reading should be chosen: they should not be all those that fell out of the package from a circulating library wet with the spray of folly. It was not the badness of a novel that he would dread, but its overwrought excitement. The weakest romance was not so stupefying as the lowest form of religious penny-lining: the worst romance was not so corrupting as false history, philosophy, and politics. Good novels, such as modern literature gave examples of, might be made serious use of, being nothing less than treatises on moral anatomy and chemistry, and on the study of human nature in all its elements. But he attached little weight to their teaching, as they were not read with sufficient seriousness. Whatever novel, poetry, or history was read should be chosen not for what was out of it, but what was in it. Scattered evil in a powerful book never did any harm to a noble girl: it was the emptiness of a book that oppressed her, and its amiable folly that degraded her. If she had access to a library of old and classical books there need be no choosing for her: she would find what was for use herself. The difference between a girl and a boy was that they might chisel a boy as they would a rock, or might hammer him as they would bronze, but they could not hammer a girl into anything. She grew as a flower did, and would wither if not treated kindly. In art there should be kept before her the finest models, which were the true, simplest, and most useful. Her practice in accomplishments should be accurate and thorough. One more help she could not do without: it would do more than all other influences beside. Mr. Quincey, in his beautiful essay on Joan of Arc, stated that her early life was passed on the borders of a boundless forest, haunted by fairies. It was the solitude and the quiet thought that came out of the loneliness and divinity of nature that made her noble soul raise her to what she became. If they had a garden large enough for their children to play in, with just as much lawn as they could run about upon, they would be wrong in displacing it by a coal shaft, even if they increased their income thereby sixtyfold. Yet this was what they were doing with England. It was only a little garden, scarcely too large for all the children to run about in: and this they would turn, if they could, into furnace ground and heaps of cinders. The children suffered from this, for the fairies would not be banished. There were fairies of the furnace as well as of the wood; and the first gifts of those fairies of the furnace were arrows of the mighty, but the last were coals of juniper. Snowden was our Parnassus: the Holyhead mountain our island of Elysia. Where was its temple of Minerva? In the report of 1848, published by the Committee of Council on Education, the examiner stated that among all the principal figures in Shakspere's plays there was only one weak woman, Ophelia, and it was because she failed Hamlet at the critical moment that all the catastrophe followed. There were wicked women among the principal figures, but they were felt to be exceptions, and were fatal in their influences according to the power of good they had abandoned. As the writer who had given the broadest and truest view of the conditions of ordinary thought in modern society, he would next ask his hearers to receive the witness of Sir Walter Scott. 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Wherever a true wife came such a home was always around her.

Accepting this, then, as the true conception of the office and dignity of woman, the next question was

that of lady, which rightly corresponded only to the title of lord. He did not blame them for this, but only for the narrow motive for it. They might claim the title of lady, provided they claimed also the corresponding office. Lady meant bread giver, or loaf giver, as lord meant maintainer of law; and these had reference, not to law maintained in the house, or bread given to the household, but to law maintained for and bread broken among the multitude. They were ladies if they cared for the bodies of their vassals; they were queens only as they became empresses of their souls. There was not a war in the world, there was not an injustice in doing it, but women were answerable for it; not that they had provoked it, but they had not hindered it. Men by their nature were prone to fight for any cause: it was for the women to choose the cause for them. There was no suffering injustice, or misery on earth but women primarily were guilty of it. Men could bear the sight of it; women should not bear the sight of it. Instead of exercising their power, women shut themselves within their garden gates, and were content to know that they were beyond them, in the wilderness of the world, secrets they did not penetrate, and sufferings they did not attempt even to console. This was to him the most amazing thing among all the phenomena of humanity. There was another garden besides that in which it was prettily said flowers would grow the better for those who loved them. Did they never hear of a Magdalene who went down into her garden at the dawn, and found one waiting at the gate whom she took for the gardener? Had we not sought Him often at the gate of that old garden where the fiery sword was set? He was never there. But at the gate of the other garden He was waiting always, to take our hands, and to go down with us to see the fruits of the valley, to learn whether the vine had flourished and the pomegranate budded. Among the hills and happy greenwood of this land of ours, should the foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, while the stones of the street cried out against the women—the queens—of England, that there were no other pillows than those stones wherein man, the son of man, could lay his head? (Applause.)

A cordial vote to Mr. Ruskin, on the motion of Mr. Butterworth, seconded by Dr. Wilkins, concluded the proceedings.

THE AUSTRALIAN FROG.

(From the *Saturday Review*, December 10.)

THERE is always something comical about the indignation of a very small man. He may really have good cause for it. His toe may have been inadvertently trodden upon, or his hat may have been knocked into the gutter by the elbow of a short-sighted passer-by. But the just grounds for his wrath are entirely forgotten in the absurdity of his mode of expressing it. The more frantic his attempts to look imposing and strike terror into his assailant, the more inextinguishable is the laughter of the spectators. It is a curious fact in natural history, not sufficiently accounted for by philosophers, that when a little man quarrels with a big man he invariably threatens to kick him. The fact is one which, as unassisted reason at once points out, can only be performed, in the case supposed, with the troublesome and somewhat undignified assistance of a stool. The strength of the instinct manifesting itself in spite of the natural disadvantage is a phenomenon worthy the attention of men of science. If we may judge from the recent example of Australia, it obviously extends itself from individuals to communities. The colony of Victoria, whatever glories its future may offer to the mental vision of enthusiastic diggers, is for the present a very small affair. It is a dangerous thing to tell a colonist that his particular settlement is not the biggest country in the world. He is painfully conscious that he is obliged to supply the deficiencies of the present by the effort of a vivid imagination, and therefore he splutters with more than a Welshman's wrath if a hint of the unpleasant fact drops from any other lips. But the fact remains nevertheless. Victoria has existed for only five-and-twenty years; and its growth in that time, which has undoubtedly been rapid, has been due to large accessions of that estimable portion of society whose prospects in life and natural tastes render gold-digging an attractive employment. Even now its European population is so scanty that it has been compelled to pass laws to hinder the immigration of Chinamen, lest their unwelcome advisers by persuading himself that they are not only no expense but a positive advantage, and that giving them their holdings gratis (which it cost him no small sum to acquire and bring into cultivation), and paying their heavy lawyers' bills incurred in keeping off trespassers, is rather a probable investment of money than otherwise. Quietly reposing in this magnanimous frame of mind, he is not a little discomposed at being suddenly set upon by his poor relations, all declaring that they know he can't get on without them, that he will be a bankrupt and a beggar, and will end his days in the workhouse unless they stay with him, and that he must do all kinds of things—pay more money, and give up his rights over more land—if he wishes to retain the privilege of maintaining them. The situation is novel, and we have not quite realised it yet. The British taxpayer is rubbing his eyes and asking himself if these are really the poor relations to whom he thought he had been so generous. But it is evident that his present submissiveness arises more from pure bewilderment than any other feeling. The policy of continuing transportation to Western Australia is undoubtedly open to serious question. It is, no doubt, a more convenient, and perhaps a more inexpensive, mode of disposing of our criminals than any other that is at present practicable. It also enriches the Western Australians, who are content with the arrangement and desire that it should continue. On fiscal grounds, therefore, as well as on the bare ground of justice, the practice appears to be unassailable. But it must not be forgotten that our penal system is formed upon other principles besides those of sound finance, or even strict justice. A moral aim, some hope of raising the morality of our fellow-men, underlies it all. But for this, the simplest plan would be to lock up for life the class of criminals whose presence at large in England causes us alarm. Such a plan would not be unjust, and might be made as cheap as any other. We are deterred from it by a desire, if possible, to reclaim in some degree the criminals in question. But if it appears that a plan which we have adopted for this end has the effect of spreading the infection of crime elsewhere, our moral aim is clearly frustrated. Transportation, therefore, or to near or to rising communities, becomes open to the objection that it is either too little or too much. If we care only for justice, it is not worth the while; if our aspirations rise to benevolence, it is a failure. But all this is for our own consideration only. It does not give the slenderest handle to these pert colonists for presuming to question the mode in which we please to deal with portions of our own territory with which they have nothing to do, still less for their recent queer attempt to spite us for the course we have taken.

It is impossible not to regard with feelings of some commiseration the expatriates who are the subjects of this experiment. It may be that some of them are partially reformed, and have something which may be called a conscience. The position of such a man, if there be one among them, must be embarrassing. He is under an implied contract to commit murder, or at least highway robbery, directly

sets foot in England. Unless he does so, he is clearly disappointing the expectations of his employers in Victoria. They did not spend their money merely to send back harmless and respectable citizens to the mother country. Their object was to punish the British community by subjecting it to the same kind of suffering which they say they have undergone from the ravages of the bushrangers who have come over to them from Western Australia. If any of the expatriates who are now upon their way to our shores shall neglect to commit a good rousing crime within a reasonable time after his arrival, he will be committing a positive fraud upon the enterprising Australian who paid his passage. If the reforming discipline to which he has been exposed is not a total failure, and the lectures of the chaplain have not been wholly without effect, he will enjoy no peace of mind until he has garrotted somebody; and if he is at all a man of a high sense of honour, he will feel that so expensive an outlay as that which has been made on his behalf will hardly be repaid until he has damaged at least half a dozen British windpipes. The danger of being possibly stimulated in the course of his operations will only stimulate his generous mind to greater exertions. At the same time, he may feel a difficulty in satisfactorily explaining to his old friend the Chaplain if he should happen to see him, his new profession of garrotting agent to a Crime-exporting

TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGES.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

BRISBANE.

Tuesday, 6 p.m.

The notorious bushranger, Paddy Tom, alias Corrington, who was recently arrested here, was forwarded to Sydney to-day. He is suspected to be the murderer of a man named Maset, in New South Wales.

SAILED.—Cavarts (s.), for Sydney.

MELBOURNE.

Thursday, 8 p.m.

The nominations for the Victorian Racing Club's autumn meeting closed yesterday. The meeting promises to be the most successful ever held here. There are five entries for the Trial Stakes. For the St. Ledger—Boomerang, Gwendoline, Illumination, and The Sign, are the only ones that have made good the last payment. Only five horses will start for the Australian Sires' Produce Stakes. For the Hurdle Race, four entries; Grand Stand Stakes, seven; Mares' Produce Stakes, four; Steele Chase, four; Town Plate, eight. The acceptances for the Australian Cup are Ebor, Barwon, Musidora, Banker, Rose of Denmark, Illumination, Saturn, Chrysotile, Woodman, and Laner.

It is currently reported that the Shenandoah is on the Tasmanian coast, having a gun deck laid. The rumour is, however, doubtful. It is most probable that she has gone towards the west coast of America.

In the Assembly this evening the Chief Secretary, in answer to a question asked on Thursday night stated, that the Government having reason to believe that the new tariff would be rejected by the Upper House if it were sent there as a separate bill, have decided to incorporate it in the Appropriation Act, a course which, though unusual, was not without constitutional reasons, which he would give on Tuesday. The statement, though not unexpected, was received with great disfavour by the free trade members who warmly condemned the conduct of the Government as unpremeditated, and a course disastrous to the best interests of the colony, and an attempt to coerce the Upper Chamber. Mr. McCulloch said the Government would press on the Estimates with all possible dispatch, so as to have the Appropriation Bill sent up to the Legislative Council and decided as early as possible.

The Ocean Eagle, from Boston, arrived to-day, with a large parcel of kerosene oil and sundries. The Pactole, from Calcutta, brought a cargo of rice, and 9000 gallons of castor oil, which is now quoted at \$6. Her cargo of rice is the first of the new crop and is held for \$26.

Flour very firm. Adelaide silk dressed is worth £24 to £25; best Chilian, £20 to £21 lbs.; wheat 10s. 3d. to 16s. 6d.

The Formosa, from Mauritius, reports the Metaris as having sailed for Melbourne, and the Crown and Adventure, for Sydney, with full cargoes.

Tasmanian advices of the 28th, state that the markets were steady. Breadstuffs very firm.

ADELAIDE.

Thursday, 7 p.m.

Great interest is taken in the elections for the Upper House, but the results are not yet known. For the Assembly, Mr. Milne, Commissioner for Public Works, was elected at the head of the poll for the Onkaparinga district. The Treasurer elected for the Port. The return of the Attorney-General, Mr. R. Stow, is doubtful.

Roberts is to play his first game here on Saturday, with Lasear, the best player in Adelaide.

Business is without change. There is a large demand for wheat at 9s., but no paraffin offering. Flour is in good request. Millers ask £22 to £23. Bran is higher; sales have been effected at 1s. 4d. to 1s. 4d. Cape barley in good demand at 3s. 9d. to 3s. 10d. English barley sold at 6s. 6d. Cornsacks, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 10d.

Fat sheep are quoted at 15s. to 17s. Lambs, 10s. 6d.

ARRIVED.—Dragon, from Sydney; South Australian and Coorong (s.), from Melbourne. Both will sail for Melbourne on Saturday.

BUSH FIRES.—The horizon has been illuminated for some nights past by the reflection of bush fires, which are now numerous and extensive in this district. We have been told of one of great intensity and size occurring between Jervis and Murrambateman. The long dry and intense heat which we are now experiencing is beginning to look upon with some alarm, as it commences seriously to affect the agricultural and pastoral operations. Thunderstorms have been threatening, and the last day or two has been cloudy, but now we seem as far from rain as ever. The heat and closeness of the atmosphere are most oppressive, and inconvenience is not lessened by the little wind we had lately, which, when it does come, is hot and accompanied with almost impenetrable clouds of dust.

—COUNTRY ARMS.—Wednesday's *Goulburn Herald* set out in its columns that on Friday morning Gilbert and Dunn called at the house of Mr. Lodge, a small dwelling about a mile and a half from Byrnes' at Muthill, where the affray with the police occurred. They took two horses, saying that they were chased for their lives and must have them. Hall was not with them—a fact which tends to confirm the opinion of the police that he was wounded in the encounter. It was reported that the bushrangers were seen at Taro on Saturday morning; but this has not been confirmed.

On Saturday morning, at the house of Mr. Lodge while out after a horse, a number of letters of return in the bush. He gave information and Captain Zorn proceeded to the spot, where he recovered as many letters as were sufficient to half fill a three-bushel bag and drafts and cheques to the value of about £7600. The place where these were found is about a mile and a half from Byrnes'.

THE FAMILY OF THE LATE CONSTABLE NELSON.—A meeting was held at Collector on the 23rd instant, to consider the best means of applying the fund, for the benefit of Mrs. Nelson. It was unanimously decided that it should be provided for her, and stocked with cattle, &c., so that she may be placed in a position to maintain her family by the exertions of her two eldest sons. A considerable sum has been already subscribed and paid in.—*Goulburn Herald*.

A VALUABLE GROUSE.—Mr. Thomas, the bandmaster of the 2nd Tasmanian Rifles, has now in his possession a goose which has been laying without any interval than a day or two at a time since July last, and in that period has deposited no less than eighty-nine eggs. Taking the eggs at the extravagantly low average weight of 3d. each, the quantity deposited would weight less than 20 lbs., and their value at 4d. each would amount to within a fraction of 30s.—*T. T. Mercury*.

DISCOVERY OF A COAL-FIELD AT RAYMOND TERRACE.—A correspondent sends us the following:—Coal has been discovered on the property of Mr. McAlister, above place, and has been carefully examined by Mr. Keene, Examiner of Coal-fields. He has declared it to be such, and is, I hear, willing to show any parties where to commence. The proprietors will let it on very reasonable terms—I believe at 6d. per ton. The distance from the pits to deep water would be about 600 yards, where a vessel of heavy tonnage could come alongside. It is a mile and a half of deep water frontage to the sea; timber, stone, clay, and fresh water are in abundance on the land; daily steamers that call there could receive their cargo at that place. The property being situated on a decline to the river, it would require but small outlay before a return was received. The coal is spoken of as being of excellent quality.—*Maitland Mercury*.

HARBOURING BUSHRANGERS.—At the Police Court, on the 27th ultimo, before a full Bench, Thomas Byrnes, son, Edward Byrnes, and Thomas Byrnes, junior, the two last sons of the elder prisoner, were charged with harbouring bushrangers. Mr. Gannon for the prosecution, and Mr. Walsh for the defence. Detective Pyle deposed:—I searched the three prisoners at the residence of the older Byrnes for four miles from Lodge's, a few minutes after daylight on the morning of Friday last, on a charge of harbouring the bushrangers Hall, Gilbert, Dunn, and another; I pray a remand for eight days for further evidence; I saw the bushrangers about fifty yards from their house; the older Byrnes said that he did not know anything of bushrangers being there until he heard the firing. Elder prisoner Byrnes stated that he never said anything of the kind. Remanded for a week. Bail refused.—*Goulburn Herald*.

THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

NO. III.—SHIP BUILDING (CONTINUED.)

Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Before concluding our remarks under this head, it may be as well that we should notice that amongst the heaviest of the works undertaken at the A. S. N. Co.'s Pyrmont establishment, has been the lengthening of several of their steamers. The Telegraph was the first vessel upon which the experiment was tried, and it was only done after communication with her modelers at home with reference to the capability of the hull to bear the increased length. On an affirmative answer being received, she was put on the Company's slip, and lengthened 28 feet. This trial was attended with such success that the Collaroy was next taken in hand, and afterwards the Clarence, both these vessels being lengthened 32 feet. But an even more difficult task followed upon these. The Boomerang steamer ran upon a sandbank in the Fitzroy river, below Rockhampton, and almost went to pieces, her sides falling out and buckling till she was almost a complete wreck. After some hasty repairs to enable her to float, she was with much trouble, and only by the exercise of the greatest care, towed down to Sydney. Once there, she was put upon the slip, her hull renodled, an additional forty feet of length given to her, and was at last turned out as we see her, a first-class vessel.

A slight inaccuracy occurred in the wording of a portion of our remarks upon Mr. Cuthbert's establishment. We stated that he had never employed less than 150 men, whereas we should have said that was the average number employed by him for some years past.

SHIP BUILDING.

For the sake of convenience in dealing with this branch of our subject, we shall consider it under four heads, namely—the construction of yachts, or the larger class of pleasure sailing boats—which, by the way, is almost a part of ship rather than of boat building; of ships' boats, or boats taken to sea for the use of vessels; of watermen's boats or wherries; and of the lighter kinds of skiffs or gentlemen's pleasure or wager boats. And in fact the trade seems to have divided itself pretty arbitrarily into these four classes, the chief of the boat builders in Sydney having obtained a reputation in one or the other of them, and confining themselves almost entirely to the kind of boat in which they have found themselves to be the most adept.

Yacht building, as we have said, ought rather to have come under the head of ship of boat building, since the style of work is altogether different, and a different class of mechanic is required for each. Boat building is a much more delicate operation than ship building, and requires much finer, nearer, and closer work, more resembling that of the joiner, to which it is very nearly allied. Still, being vessels of pleasure rather than of commerce, we have taken upon ourselves to classify them as we have done solely to enable us to consider our subject upon a prescribed plan. Mr. Cuthbert, with all his extensive ship building work, has not considered yacht building beneath his notice, for the Peri, whose graceful outline is so well known in the harbour, was turned out of his yard. The most successful yacht builder, however, is Dan Sheekey, of Woolloomooloo Bay. His last vessel, the Xarifa, built for Mr. Parbury, is about as handsome a model as one would desire to see. She is of thirty tons measurement burden, and though roomy and convenient below, has proved herself remarkably fast, not only in the harbour, but outside in an open sea way. She is built entirely of colonial wood, her timbers being of blue gum, and her planking of blue gum below the water line, and of kaurie pine above it. She is fitted up below in the most elegant style, some of the cedar used being, without exception, the handsomest specimen we have ever seen of that wood. Sheekey was also builder of the Blink Bonnie, a name that has been rendered famous at our regattas by the number of prizes taken by it. This boat was run for some years, and was never beaten. He also constructed the Australian, a 5 ton open yacht; and the Sibyl, 22 feet open boats, both of them winners. His work lies solely amongst pleasure yachts, and in this way himself and four men are constantly employed, and have been so for the past two years. He is about the only boatbuilder in this particular line of work.

The leading builder in the second of our divisions of boat building is Mr. Looke, of Balmain. Having been a long while in this branch of the trade, to which he exclusively confines himself, he does a very steady business, working for the P. and O. Company and some of the leading shipping firms of Sydney. Most of the contract work for the Government is also done by him. During the past year he has turned out about twenty ships' boats, of various sizes. Honeysuckle and blue gum are the materials used for timbers, and blue gum and cedar for the planking. He keeps four hands at work, the rate of wages being ten shillings a day.

A type of the next class is Mr. Langford, who has obtained a reputation for building watermen's boats. His yard adjoins that of Mr. Cuthbert, on Darling Harbour, and there is done the largest business in this line. As a master of interest, however, we may mention that another builder in this line, George Buckley, also of Darling Harbour, has recently constructed a waterman's skiff, which has been licensed as such, and which only forty-seven lbs. She is twenty-two feet on the keel, and has been made to come within the regatta rules for pulling in watermen's skiffs. These boats are all constructed of honeysuckle timbers, with cedar planking.

In the estate of Mr. Langford, an adjourned single meeting. Insolvent was declared. The assignee was directed to sell the household furniture.

SURRENDERS.

Affid Hunt, of East Gosford, sawyer. Liabilities, £28 10s. Assets, £15. Mr. Semphill, official assignee.

Alfred Kelly, of East Gosford, sawyer. Liabilities, £20 7s. Assets, £15. Mr. Humphrey, official assignee.

William Moore, of Allary, late of Tumbarumba, restaurant-keeper. Liabilities, £187 6s. Assets, £3. Mr. John Murray, of Rocky River, baker. Liabilities, £10 10s. Assets, £19 9s. 7d. Mr. Mackenzie, official assignee.

John Murray, of Rocky River, baker. Liabilities, £10 10s. Assets, £19 9s. 7d. Mr. Mackenzie, official assignee.

BENJAMIN, THE.—The Liabilities in the estate of William Benjamin, surrendered yesterday, are £5430 8s. 11d; and are, as previously reported, £54,340 8s. 11d.

MEETINGS OF CREDITORS.

Friday, March 3.—Mr. Bradbury, John Dugat, first, Shepherd & Sons, Samuel Martin, John Buckley, David Farrell, solicitors.

much as they would have done by working steadily under the eye of a master for a fixed wage.

Another hindrance to the extension of this trade is to be found in the difficulty that is experienced in procuring suitable timber, especially for the larger kind of boat work. None of those who work in the bush will take the trouble to make it their business to supply timber to order. Thus the boat-builder is left entirely to chance for his supply of materials, and is compelled, whenever the opportunity offers, to buy up heterogeneous assortments of timber, in the hope of obtaining something out of them that may suit him. For the boat-builder himself to go into the bush and select and cut his timber, would take up too much of the time that is so valuable to him, and render his materials too expensive. This is a serious drawback, but no doubt it would be removed in time. Of the hundreds of men working in the bush around Sydney, splitting fencing stuff or cutting firewood, surely there must be some with sense enough to see the advantage they may derive by putting aside such of the timber as would be suitable for boat-building purposes, especially when there is so great a demand for it, and it is so easily bought up.

Almost the only materials used in boat work are honeysuckle and cedar, though for the larger kind blue gum is occasionally employed for timbers. They are invariably copper-fastened, and iron is never used in them, experience having shown beyond doubt that the heat of the sun operates upon it so powerfully as to injure the wood in which it is fixed. This has become so much the rule now, that in all specifications for boats to be built, whether Government or otherwise, a provision is contained for the use of copper in place of iron.

We mentioned in our last, that Mr. Booth had cut timbers for ship-building by means of his saw-mill; and we have since ascertained that the same thing is done at other establishments on the same scale. We have seen several vessels now in course of construction, the timbers of which have been cut to shape at the saw-mill.

INSOLVENCY COURT.

THURSDAY.

Before the Chief Commissioner.

Plans of distribution were confirmed in the following cases, on the 27th ultimo:—William Stephen, a brewer, who died on Dec. 9, 1865, in the pound, and on his motion for Mr. Mackenzie, in the following estates:

William Cunningham, £1, 9s. 6d. in the pound;

William Moxon, 24d. and 3s. 16d. in the pound;

Edward Bryan, 11d. in the pound;

John Cowan, 2s. 9d. in the pound;

Henry Ellis, 8s. 6d. in the pound.

The following cases were adjourned:

John Bell, 1s. 6d. in the pound;

John Bell, 1s. 6

YORKSHIRE WORKING-MEN'S CLUBS.

(From the *Leeds Mercury*, December 10.) The Working-men's Club movement appears to be making rapid progress throughout the country. We are daily hearing of new clubs being started, and, with the exception of the three failures from bad management, such as that at Liverpool, these institutions appear to be in a prosperous condition. Very different is this encouraging state of things to that which existed a few years since, when clubs, for purposes of recreation or amusement, were regarded as one of the peculiar privileges possessed by the wealthier classes. Many a railroad excursionist, fresh from the factories and workshops of Yorkshire, must have gazed with feelings approaching to envy on the palatial edifices which line Pall-Mall, the favourite lounge of metropolitan decadence. The magnificent clubs, with all their conveniences and advantages, must have impressed him with a deep sense of awe. He could not perceive that the principle of these clubs could be adopted, on a restricted and modified scale, by the members of his own class. Yet so it was. Every description of club is merely an adoption of the co-operative principle. The public-house itself is a kind of working men's club, but the demoralising and mischievous influences surrounding it restrain the best of that class from using it, and their friends in other classes from regarding it with approval. Some degree of restraint was required when working men could not resort to the warmth and comfort of a tap-room without being exposed to its dangers or dangers. The working men's clubs seemed to meet the want thus felt, hence their rapid rise in popular favour. The Leeds institute, with its branch 'or boys, affords one of the best examples of a successful institute of this kind. The noble lords and stately dames who formerly graced the assembly rooms with their occasional presence would not be a little startled could they behold the changes which have taken place since the time when, attired in all the splendour of velvet, silk, and lace, they sipped their choicer or drowsed grave and solemn minuets in the glare of wax-tapers and oil lamps which decorated the various apartments. None of the "herd profane" were then allowed to venture within the precincts reserved for the use and pleasure of the Yorkshire aristocracy. There was something horrible in the idea. It savoured of revolution, of anarchy, and even worse. But a change came at last. The splendid chambers in which all the wealth, pride, and fashion of the district were once wont to congregate were given up to the sway of cobwebs and spiders. The once smiling walls became covered with dust, and an air of melancholy crept over the whole place. Change succeeded change, and now, under the management of the members of a Working Men's Institute, there is something extremely suggestive in this, but all else do not possess quarters of such aristocratic prestige. At York, the Working Men's Club and Institute is content with premises formerly occupied as a house and shop. There is a description of the institution in the "Companion to the Almanac," but the account is necessarily very brief. The York Club presents an instance which other places would find it comparatively easy to imitate, and as such is worthy of more notice than it appears to have hitherto attracted. Situated close to the principal thoroughfare of the ancient city, its accessibility forms one of the advantages which have led to its present success, a hint which the promoters of Working Class Institutions would do well to act upon. The house itself presents an attractive yet not pretentious look, somewhat resembling that of a respectable public-house. Over the door is painted in gold and gaily-coloured letters, the title, "Working Men's Club and Institute," the same being repeated on the lamp which is suspended over what was formerly the private door, but which now forms the entrance. The passage is all gaily painted, and on pushing open the glass door a bell rings, and we find ourselves in a passage, one side of which is covered with a row of small rooms, each of which is appropriated to the holding of meetings, lectures, &c., of working-class interests. On the other side is a window, at which we have to show our tickets or pay for admission. Once admitted, we are free to wander over the premises. The shop is fitted up as a reading and refreshment room, the nucleus of a library being also added. Every table has its surface painted over with squares for playing at chess or draughts; thus dispensing with the use of the usual boards. Puzzles, brases, and other scientific toys are also provided. From the shop we proceed into the other rooms which are fitted up as reading, lecture, and chess rooms. The lecture room, which is immediately over the shop, is well supplied with newspapers and serials; the quiet of the apartments contrasting strangely with the bustle and animation observable in the bagatelle room adjoining, which is filled with young men, busily engaged in smoking or playing at bagatelle or draughts. In the chess room the players sit like so many statues, seldom uttering a word or making any movements except when absolutely necessary. Everywhere the members, in accordance with a suggestion contained in a placard affixed to the wall, are found acting as their "own policemen." If anything of a disturbance takes place it is found to arise in nine cases out of ten from the youths who frequent the place. It is practically impossible to forbid their admission, but they are restricted from entering the smoking rooms. As it is, they form the only trouble to which the managers of the club are exposed. Passing across the yard, which is fitted up for playing at quoits, we find ourselves in front of a building, the lower portion of which is occupied as a gymnasium, the upper room being used for lectures, free-and-easies, &c. The floor of the gymnasium is plentifully covered with tan and straw mats, lessening the risk of falls. The lecture-room is a long apartment, capable of seating about 250 persons. As an entrance, it was found it filled with men and youths, most of whom were in their working clothes, not a few having pipes. At the further end of the room was a raised platform, on which was placed a piano, a table, and one or two chairs. At the time of our visit, a Saturday evening, the piano was presided over by a professional, the chair being occupied by a working man, who had the conventional ivory hammer, mug, and glass before him, the mug being filled with beer instead of beer. There was no lack of singers or reciters, the various songs and recitations being given by the working men themselves. In fact, the public-house "was made and easy," without the beer and gin. The bulk of the present were of that class which we generally find frequenting the tap-room and the beer-shop parlour, a class very difficult to get hold of. In this respect the York Club has rendered good service. It has shown how a barrier may be raised up between the working man and the public-house. At the close of the meeting we stayed to mark the demeanour of the members as they left the room, and were pleased to find that very few of them entered the public-houses which surrounded the place. They had enjoyed the evening, and were hastening to their homes, as it is, as a substitute for the public-house that the Working Men's Club will prove most useful, but its success is not always obtainable at first. In York the promoters of the club had a uphill fight at the outset. Their efforts were coldly received by those whom they were intended, while lukewarm friends were constantly predicting of failure. Nevertheless they persevered, and at last success crowned their efforts, the number of weekly visitors at the time of our visit being between 700 and 800. But objections have been urged that these institutions might have a tendency to encourage gambling. The same, however, might be said of all places where sports are provided. The best means of counteracting this tendency appears to consist in exercising a strict yet kindly supervision over the conduct of the members, and in prohibiting all games of chance. The difficulty and uncertainty experienced in forming clubs in some localities are also found in the formation of new ones, or in the maintenance of those already established, among the upper classes. Some men, as Dr. Johnson said, are "most uncharitable animals," and the difficulties alluded to are increased when, in the case of villages and small towns, the number of such clubs depends on a large sum, while the improved taste of the people have to be created, as it were. In such cases, the first step is emphatically the hardest. Once, however, let the habit be formed, and the comforts of a well-ordered club will recommend themselves. Everything will here depend upon the energy, tact, and social influence of the managing committee, and the efficiency of their rules and by-laws. Again, the question whether politics should or should not be excluded is a difficult one. If they are excluded, the prosperity of the club will be endangered, for politics form the staple of conversation amongst working men in workshop or factory. On the other hand, if they are admitted, differences may be produced in the club, especially in times of political excitement.

They would by tacit consent waive the discussion of any questions that would tend to destroy the peace and harmony subsisting in the club. At York, Leeds, and elsewhere, as the clubs become part and parcel of working-class existence, a purer tone of feeling will have been called into play, many of the working men will have mounted the lowest step of the ladder, and have made the first stride towards their emancipation from the thralldom of the public-house. It is from this point of view that the formation of these clubs appears to the best advantage and deserves the most support.

THE FLORIDA DIFFICULTY SOLVED.

(From the *London Review*, December 17.) Mr. LINCOLN's Government has by a stroke of good fortune or adroit connivance, however relieved from a great perplexity. It is hard, when one has difficulties enough on hand, to have others gratuitously forced upon one by the over-zeal of subordinates; and perhaps the greatest trial the Northern States had had to face, and the greatest sacrifice they have had to make, was occasioned by the impetuous conduct of Commodore Wilkes. For the sacrifice of money the States do not care; for the sacrifice of men they care, perhaps little. But to touch their pride is to offend them in the most painful part. Enough was suffered in the way when they had to submit to the humiliation of restoring the Confederate commissioners who had been taken from the deck of a British ship. Not that it need have been a humiliation; but that they had chosen to take up a position with regard to the illegal act of the Commodore which made it so. Much in the same way there was rejoicing when the Florida was stolen out of the harbour of Bahia. But, in the midst of the congratulations upon that successful piece of buccaneering, it was forgotten that it could only be maintained by the State the reparation which had to be made to a powerful one. That disgrace must be incurred or the Florida must be restored. Here again was a dilemma, upon which Mr. Lincoln's Government was forced by the over-zeal of the captain of the Wachusett. It would be disgraceful to keep the Florida. They would be humiliating to restore her. In the latter case, Federal officers would have been obliged to take the "pirate" back and suffer the mortification of seeing her saluted as she entered the harbour of Rio Janeiro with the rebel flag flying. The merchants of New York sleep uneasily, knowing that their old source was again free to sweep the seas, and the sovereign people of the North, who are too apt to condone might with right, would have looked unfavourably on such an infringement of the "good old plan" that "they shall keep who can." The dilemma was embarrassing. There lay the Florida, which had destroyed Federal ships by the score, and Federal merchantmen worth millions of dollars. Was she to be given up? "Yes," if honour and honesty were to carry the question. "No," if passion and self-interest were to prevail. In this puzzling position a happy idea struck in to relieve the Government of the difficulty. On the arrival of the Florida was lying in Hampton Roads, the transports steamed Atlantic ran into her, struck her on the bow, knocked off her head-chains and booms, and otherwise so damaged her that on the 29th the special correspondent of the *New York World* was able to write: "The question what shall be done with the Florida has been definitely and summarily disposed of without reference to international law. Instead of being now on her way to Rio Janeiro or Bahia, with her captured crew on board, as it was expected she would be, the notorious privateer lies nine fathoms deep in the bottom of the James."

This was a definite and summary, no doubt; but was it accidental? It certainly could not have been managed so well if it had been designed, and it appears that even so a supporter of the Northern States as Professor Goldwin Smith cannot resist the suspicion that the "accident" was intentional. He writes, that "there is too much reason to fear that American honour has suffered a great stain;" and he not only hints that Admiral Porter is the party to blame for the sinking of the Florida, but supplies the motive for such an act upon his part. "The naval commander at Fortress Monroe, where the Florida was lying, is a man who, when he sinks, is Admiral Porter, the gallant and distinguished officer who bears in his temperament and habits of mind a very close resemblance to the ill-starred Commodore Wilkes. 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